

JS 44C/SDNY  
REV.  
12/04/2024

## CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet.

### PLAINTIFFS

PAUL PHILIPPE OF ROMANIA on behalf of the ESTATE OF CAROL II OF ROMANIA.

### DEFENDANTS

CHRISTIE'S, INC.

### ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)

Edward Griffith, THE GRIFFITH FIRM, PLLC, 77 Sands Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201; (646) 645-3784 (mobile)

### ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)

CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE)  
(DO NOT CITE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES UNLESS DIVERSITY)

28 U.S.C. § 1332(a); This is an action for Replevin to recover the painting Saint Sébastien by El Greco, which was stolen in 1947.

Has this action, case, or proceeding, or one essentially the same, been previously filed in SDNY at any time? No ☐ Yes ☒ (If yes, Judge Previously Assigned)

If yes, was this case Vol. ☐ Invol. ☐ Dismissed. No ☐ Yes ☐ If yes, give date \_\_\_\_\_ & Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

IS THIS AN INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION CASE?

No ☒

Yes ☐

(PLACE AN [x] IN ONE BOX ONLY)

## NATURE OF SUIT

### TORTS

#### CONTRACT

- [ ] 110 INSURANCE  
[ ] 120 MARINE  
[ ] 130 MILLER ACT  
[ ] 140 NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT  
[ ] 150 RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENT & ENFORCEMENT OF JUDGMENT  
[ ] 151 MEDICARE ACT  
[ ] 152 RECOVERY OF DEFAULTED STUDENT LOANS (EXCL VETERANS)  
[ ] 153 RECOVERY OF OVERPAYMENT OF VETERAN'S BENEFITS  
[ ] 160 STOCKHOLDERS SUITS  
[ ] 190 OTHER CONTRACT  
[ ] 195 CONTRACT PRODUCT LIABILITY  
[ ] 196 FRANCHISE

#### REAL PROPERTY

- [ ] 210 LAND CONDEMNATION  
[ ] 220 FORECLOSURE  
[ ] 230 RENT LEASE & EJECTMENT  
[ ] 240 TORTS TO LAND  
[ ] 245 TORT PRODUCT LIABILITY  
[ ] 290 ALL OTHER REAL PROPERTY

#### PERSONAL INJURY

- [ ] 310 AIRPLANE  
[ ] 315 AIRPLANE PRODUCT LIABILITY  
[ ] 320 ASSAULT, LIBEL & SLANDER  
[ ] 330 FEDERAL EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY  
[ ] 340 MARINE  
[ ] 345 MARINE PRODUCT LIABILITY  
[ ] 350 MOTOR VEHICLE  
[ ] 355 MOTOR VEHICLE PRODUCT LIABILITY  
[ ] 360 OTHER PERSONAL INJURY  
[ ] 362 PERSONAL INJURY - MED MALPRACTICE

#### ACTIONS UNDER STATUTES

#### CIVIL RIGHTS

- [ ] 440 OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS (Non-Prisoner)  
[ ] 441 VOTING  
[ ] 442 EMPLOYMENT  
[ ] 443 HOUSING/  
[ ] 445 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES - EMPLOYMENT  
[ ] 446 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES - OTHER  
[ ] 448 EDUCATION

#### PERSONAL INJURY

- [ ] 367 HEALTHCARE/ PHARMACEUTICAL PERSONAL INJURY/PRODUCT LIABILITY  
[ ] 365 PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCT LIABILITY  
[ ] 368 ASBESTOS PERSONAL INJURY PRODUCT LIABILITY

#### PERSONAL PROPERTY

- [x] 370 OTHER FRAUD  
[ ] 371 TRUTH IN LENDING

#### PRISONER PETITIONS

- [ ] 463 ALIEN DETAINEE  
[ ] 510 MOTIONS TO VACATE SENTENCE  
[ ] 530 HABEAS CORPUS  
[ ] 535 DEATH PENALTY  
[ ] 540 MANDAMUS & OTHER

#### PRISONER CIVIL RIGHTS

- [ ] 550 CIVIL RIGHTS  
[ ] 555 PRISON CONDITION  
[ ] 560 CIVIL DETAINEE CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT

#### FORFEITURE/PENALTY

- [ ] 625 DRUG RELATED SEIZURE OF PROPERTY  
21 USC 881  
[ ] 690 OTHER

#### PROPERTY RIGHTS

- [ ] 820 COPYRIGHTS  
[ ] 830 PATENT  
[ ] 835 PATENT-ABBREVIATED NEW DRUG APPLICATION  
[ ] 840 TRADEMARK

#### LABOR

- [ ] 710 FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT  
[ ] 720 LABOR/MGMT RELATIONS  
[ ] 740 RAILWAY LABOR ACT  
[ ] 751 FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT (FMLA)  
[ ] 790 OTHER LABOR LITIGATION  
[ ] 791 EMPL RET INC SECURITY ACT (ERISA)

#### IMMIGRATION

- [ ] 462 NATURALIZATION APPLICATION  
[ ] 465 OTHER IMMIGRATION ACTIONS

### ACTIONS UNDER STATUTES

#### BANKRUPTCY

- [ ] 422 APPEAL  
28 USC 158  
[ ] 423 WITHDRAWAL  
28 USC 157

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

- [ ] 861 HIA (1395ff)  
[ ] 862 BLACK LUNG (923)  
[ ] 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))  
[ ] 864 SSID TITLE XVI  
[ ] 865 RSI (405(g))

#### FEDERAL TAX SUITS

- [ ] 870 TAXES (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)  
[ ] 871 IRS-THIRD PARTY  
26 USC 7609

#### OTHER STATUTES

- [ ] 375 FALSE CLAIMS  
[ ] 376 QUI TAM  
[ ] 400 STATE REAPPORTIONMENT  
[ ] 410 ANTITRUST  
[ ] 430 BANKS & BANKING  
[ ] 450 COMMERCE  
[ ] 460 DEPORTATION  
[ ] 470 RACKETEER INFLUENCED & CORRUPT ORGANIZATION ACT (RICO)  
[ ] 480 CONSUMER CREDIT  
[ ] 485 TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT  
[ ] 490 CABLE/SATELLITE TV  
[ ] 850 SECURITIES/ COMMODITIES/ EXCHANGE  
[ ] 890 OTHER STATUTORY ACTIONS  
[ ] 891 AGRICULTURAL ACTS  
[ ] 893 ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS  
[ ] 895 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT  
[ ] 896 ARBITRATION  
[ ] 899 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT/REVIEW OR APPEAL OF AGENCY DECISION  
[ ] 950 CONSTITUTIONALITY OF STATE STATUTES

Check if demanded in complaint:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DO YOU CLAIM THIS CASE IS RELATED TO A CIVIL CASE NOW PENDING IN S.D.N.Y. AS DEFINED BY LOCAL RULE FOR DIVISION OF BUSINESS 13? IF SO, STATE:

DEMAND \$ \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_ JUDGE \_\_\_\_\_ DOCKET NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Check YES only if demanded in complaint

JURY DEMAND: x YES NO

NOTE: You must also submit at the time of filing the Statement of Relatedness form (Form IH-32)

(PLACE AN x IN ONE BOX ONLY)

### ORIGIN

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from (Specify District) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation (Transferred) ☐ 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judge ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation (Direct File)
- ☐ a. all parties represented ☐ b. At least one party is pro se.

(PLACE AN x IN ONE BOX ONLY)

### BASIS OF JURISDICTION

**IF DIVERSITY, INDICATE CITIZENSHIP BELOW.**

- ☐ 1 U.S. PLAINTIFF ☐ 2 U.S. DEFENDANT ☐ 3 FEDERAL QUESTION (U.S. NOT A PARTY) ☒ 4 DIVERSITY

### CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (FOR DIVERSITY CASES ONLY)

(Place an [X] in one box for Plaintiff and one box for Defendant)

	PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF
CITIZEN OF THIS STATE	[ ] 1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	CITIZEN OR SUBJECT OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	[ ] 3	INCORPORATED and PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN ANOTHER STATE	[ ] 5	[ ] 5
CITIZEN OF ANOTHER STATE	[ ] 2	[ ] 2	INCORPORATED or PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN THIS STATE	[ ] 4	[ ] 4	FOREIGN NATION	[ ] 6	[ ] 6

### PLAINTIFF(S) ADDRESS(ES) AND COUNTY(IES)

Paul Philippe of Romania  
30 Rue Labrouste  
Paris 75006  
FRANCE

### DEFENDANT(S) ADDRESS(ES) AND COUNTY(IES)

Christie's Inc.  
20 Rockefeller Plaza  
New York, New York 10020

### DEFENDANT(S) ADDRESS UNKNOWN

REPRESENTATION IS HEREBY MADE THAT, AT THIS TIME, I HAVE BEEN UNABLE, WITH REASONABLE DILIGENCE, TO ASCERTAIN THE RESIDENCE ADDRESSES OF THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANTS:

### COURTHOUSE ASSIGNMENT

I have reviewed Rules 18(a) and 20(a) of the Rules for the Division of Business Among District Judges, Southern District of New York, and I hereby certify that this case should be assigned to the courthouse indicated below pursuant thereto.

Check one: THIS ACTION SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO: ☐ WHITE PLAINS ☒ MANHATTAN

DATE 02/09/2025 /s/Edward Griffith

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

RECEIPT #

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE IN THIS DISTRICT

[ ] NO

☒ YES (DATE ADMITTED Mo. July Yr. 1984)

Attorney Bar Code # EG5595

Magistrate Judge is to be designated by the Clerk of the Court.

Magistrate Judge \_\_\_\_\_ is so designated.

Tammi M. Hellwig, Clerk of Court by \_\_\_\_\_ Deputy Clerk, Dated \_\_\_\_\_.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT (NEW YORK SOUTHERN)

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